

Party for many years. He has also served as its vice-chairman for several terms.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Mr. Sudduth for his long service to so many in Winston County. I join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating him on being recognized by the Winston County GOP.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN  
CHARLES B. RANGEL

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Black History Month and to recognize the important contributions made by African-Americans to our communities and to our nation. African-Americans have made countless contributions to and sacrifices for this great nation, and nowhere is this more visible than in New York City. That is why I want to stand before you today to honor my friend and colleague Congressman CHARLES B. RANGEL for his many years of public service and tireless work to improve the lives of residents of our community and our nation.

CHARLES RANGEL, or CHARLIE as many of us know him, is a legend in New York City and in Congress. His story is well chronicled, growing up on Lenox Avenue in Harlem and then volunteering to serve in the Army during the Korean War. CHARLIE became a war hero during his service when he was wounded by the enemy during the conflict, and then leading his surviving comrades back from behind enemy lines to safety. For his leadership and bravery, CHARLIE was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

CHARLIE returned from the war determined to make a difference. With the aid of the G.I. Bill, he graduated from New York University and St. John's University Law School, and became increasingly involved in his community. He also began a career of public service, serving for a time as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and involving himself in local politics and the civil rights movement. It was during this time that he met his mentor and friend, Percy Sutton, along with a number of other young leaders fighting to make a difference in Harlem. Four of those leaders, Percy Sutton, David Dinkins, Basil Paterson, and CHARLIE RANGEL, became the legendary Gang of Four, and each of them went on to incredible success in city, state, and national politics. CHARLIE's political journey formally began soon thereafter, with his election in 1966 to the New York State Assembly.

CHARLIE served in Albany for four years, and then in 1970, he took on the legendary Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. for the right to represent Harlem in Congress. He beat the incumbent in a tough battle, and began his service here in the House of Representatives.

In 1971, during his first term, CHARLIE became a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. He has broken barriers throughout his 23 terms in office, and has maintained a consistent set of political principles. He has sought to help the least among us, and has worked to ensure the American Dream for all Americans, regardless of in-

come. And his record of accomplishment shows just how effective he has been.

Congressman RANGEL's accomplishments in Congress are truly too many to list, but let me name just a few. He has boosted the incomes of millions of working families through the Earned Income Tax Credit. He worked with my predecessor, Bob Garcia, to establish and pass the Empowerment Zone program, which has helped revitalize communities across the nation. He enabled the financing mechanisms to allow public school systems across the nation to construct new buildings and rehabilitate old ones. He helped isolate apartheid South Africa by passing the Rangel Amendment, which forced many investors in the 1980s to abandon the country. He has created trade and investment opportunities for countries across the Caribbean and Africa.

Lastly, he mentored a then junior Congressman from the Bronx, who arrived in Congress in 1990. It was with his friendship, advice, and support that I won my seat on the Appropriations Committee. He has always been a source of knowledge and know-how, and I am proud to count him as a colleague and a dear friend. He has extended his generosity and friendship to my son, State Senator José M. Serrano, and we know we can always count on his friendship, personally and politically.

CHARLIE still lives in the community where he was born with his wonderful wife Alma. They have two adult children and three grandchildren.

CHARLIE still has 11 months left in Congress, so this might seem a little bit early to some. But as we celebrate Black History Month and reflect on the contributions African-Americans have made to our nation, I thought it was important to acknowledge just how important and influential CHARLIE RANGEL, New York's own master legislator, has been to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Congressman CHARLES B. RANGEL for his consistently remarkable dedication to public service and longstanding commitment to improving our nation.

HONORING NAIOP-NEW MEXICO

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the New Mexico chapter of NAIOP which received the prestigious Chapter of the Year award, for the medium chapter category, at NAIOP's annual retreat on February 10, 2016 in Washington, D.C.

NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, was founded in 1967 and is the leading organization for developers, owners, and related professionals in office, industrial, retail and mixed-use real estate. With 52 chapters throughout the United States and Canada, NAIOP comprises more than 15,000 members. It advances responsible commercial real estate development while simultaneously advocating for effective public policy.

The New Mexico chapter of NAIOP, founded in 1981, was originally comprised of less than 10 members. The chapter has grown with

vigor and today proudly counts more than 260 members in its ranks. NAIOP-New Mexico has been successful in advocating for their members at the local, state, and federal level. In addition to Chapter of the Year, I am proud to report that they were honored for the excellence of their Legislative and Government Affairs at the annual retreat.

The work that NAIOP-New Mexico performs is important not only because it promotes job growth and excellence in the commercial real estate industry, but also because of its educational programs. For example, the Developing Leaders Program provides members under 35 with the tools necessary to excel and become future leaders in commercial real estate. In the past three years, they focused on reaching out to millennials who are interested in careers in commercial real estate and have grown the program by 126%. NAIOP-New Mexico has also partnered with the University of New Mexico and Central New Mexico Community College to educate students who are interested in commercial real estate, providing them with important skills for future careers. In fact, their members have donated more than \$20,000 to these student projects and initiatives. For these accomplishments, NAIOP-New Mexico also received the award for the best medium-sized chapter in the Developing Leaders Program.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate NAIOP-New Mexico for winning three prestigious and competitive awards. In particular, I would like to call attention to NAIOP-New Mexico's CEO, Tom Bisaquino, and President, Lynne Anderson, for their outstanding leadership and to commend all the staff and members who made these awards possible. I look forward to hearing about the future successes of NAIOP-New Mexico as they continue to attract new members, train and educate future leaders, and improve commercial real estate in our state.

Congratulations, NAIOP-New Mexico; keep up the great work.

RECOGNIZING ZELMA BROOKS  
WASHINGTON'S 50 YEAR MEM-  
BERSHIP IN THE DELTA SIGMA  
SORORITY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize an important milestone for a dedicated member of the African American and Dallas Communities. On January 31st, 2016, Sister Zelma Brooks Washington was honored for her fifty years of membership in the Delta Sigma Sorority, an organization comprised of college-educated black women that provides community support throughout the world. The sorority has over 200,000 members, and was originally founded here in Washington DC at Howard University.

Mrs. Washington is a graduate of Jarvis Christian College and the University of North Texas. She had a career dedicated to the greater public—she was a teacher and counselor here in the Dallas area for decades. In addition to her career as an educator, she has been active in her relationship with the Greater Golden Gate Church, working with the Deaconess, New Member Orientation, Mission,